

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY East Germany/USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT Rotation of Officers in GOFG

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1. There was a permanent 10% - 20% officer shortage in GOFG, since the selection of officers for Germany followed complicated and cumbersome administrative channels. GOFG officer requirements were sent to the Ministry of the Armed Forces in Moscow. The Ministry would then detail Soviet military districts to provide a certain quota within a specified time limit.

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The cadre branch of each military district would select a number of officers to fill this quota, but, at the last moment, it often would be discovered that either the officers' family status permitted him to refuse assignment in Germany or that his moral qualifications were such as to preclude his assignment outside the borders of the Soviet Union.

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2. An officer was officially required to serve two years in Germany, but, in actuality, he served up to three years before receiving a new assignment. An officer could volunteer to extend his service in Germany, but the act of volunteering would immediately bring him under suspicion so that his behavior while in Germany would be thoroughly investigated by the security authorities.

3. Officers received their new assignments usually during the following months:

Platoon leaders - October  
Company commanders - November  
Higher officers - End of November, and December

4. The time required to change unit commands was as follows:

Platoon leaders - 3 days  
Company CO's - 5 days  
Battalion CO's - 10 days

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